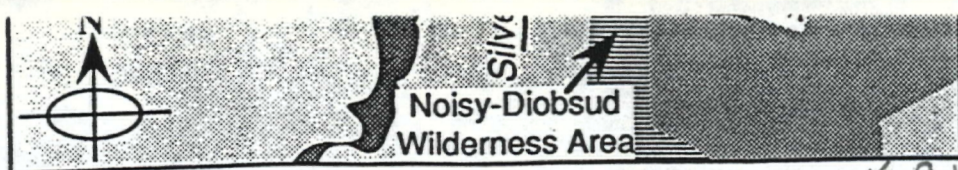


CROWN PACIFIC has been years of work on the part of several environmental groups to save the old-growth trees within the property, described as a "living museum" and representative of a natural system that once covered much of Western Washington.

The property, once under Forest Service control, would be regulated under a Mount (Continued on Page A9, Col. 1)



Map shows site of Noisy Creek land purchase

Bellingham Herald 2/15/90

# Pasco dump for county trash, Everson site put on Superfund

By TRASK TAPPERSON  
of the Herald staff

A Northwest Transformer Corp. site in downtown Everson and the Pasco landfill receiving half or more of Whatcom County's solid waste were declared national Superfund sites today by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The action clears the way for use of federal tax dollars to clean up hazardous waste contamination at the sites if responsible parties cannot be found or are unwilling or unable to do the job.

According to David Bennett, National Priorities List administrator in the EPA's Region 10 office in Seattle, the two sites are:

- Northwest Transformer, a tract of less than one-half acre on Harkness Road contaminated with several hazardous substances — principally polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which have been shown to cause liver damage and cancer in laboratory animals.

PCBs, banned by the EPA in 1976, were used since 1926 in transformers as insulators and coolants, and in lubricants, carbonless copy paper, adhesives and caulking compounds.

- Pasco landfill. EPA monitoring wells operating at the site since 1985 have identified the presence of numerous chlorinated solvents in the groundwater beneath at least five waste-disposal cells at the 206-acre dump about two miles northwest of the Tri-Cities.

Bennett said it was not immediately clear whether the Superfund designation would result in closure or any limitations on the operation of the portions of the landfill receiving non-hazardous solid wastes. They include 100 to 145 tons of Whatcom County trash being shipped six days a week from a transfer station at Recomp Corp.'s Slater Road incinerator.

(Continued on Page A9, Col. 1)

## Everson site put on national Superfund list

(Continued from Page A1)

There is no evidence so far that the contaminants have migrated into off-site drinking water sources, Bennett said.

The landfill operated as a state-licensed hazardous waste disposal site from 1972 until early 1974 under the auspices of Resource Recovery Corp., a subsidiary of Seattle-based Chemical Processors Inc., he said.

EPA examination of shipping manifests indicates that 47,000 drums of hazardous material were buried at the landfill — primarily, but not necessarily exclusively in five disposal cells, Bennett said.

Another element in the agency's decision to elevate the site to the national priorities list of Superfund is the presence of a trench containing ash from earlier municipal waste burning, he said.

Bennett identified the owner of the

Everson site as Joe Doffing, a Canadian who bought the Harkness Road land from Ron and Noah Wallace shortly before it was placed on EPA's list as a potential Superfund site in June 1988.

The site was not in use at the time of the sale and hasn't been used since, Bennett said.

A 1.2-acre Northwest Transformer site at the intersection of Mission and East Pole roads was put on the EPA's Superfund list earlier, because of PCB contamination.

In April 1985, EPA began an extensive cleanup of the site, where Northwest Transformer stored and recycled electric transformers from about 1958 to 1977.

That site is not involved in the EPA order today, which also resulted in the elevation to the national Superfund priorities list of five other sites in Washington, none of them in

Whatcom or Skagit counties.

The initial steps to be taken at both the Harkness Road and Pasco sites Bennett said, are thorough assessments of:

- The nature and extent of contamination.
- The cleanup options available.
- Who will do the job and how they will do it.

Because some hazardous wastes have been removed over the years from the Everson site, EPA also will be conducting "a sort of a hunt," Bennett said. "We're trying to track down where they went; letters written as part of that effort already are in the mail," he said.

Until the on-site and off-site investigations are completed, no estimate of cleanup costs is possible, Bennett said. However, the agency is identifying all potentially responsible parties.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS.  
USEPA SF  
PRESIDENTS' DAY



1371195



comment on an NBC report



# County sends garbage packing

(Continued from Page A1)

loaded six days a week on three or four 35-foot open top trailers. Each bears about 25 to 30 tons of uncompacted waste eastward, waste that heretofore would have wound up for the most part at Cedarville, the seventh general-purpose dump in the last three decades that has been closed in Whatcom County, according to county Public Works Director Paul Rushing.

The tarp-covered trucks roll over Snoqualmie Pass and east through Ellensburg and Vantage before hugging the east bank of the Columbia River southeastward toward the Franklin County dump site.

Concern over inadvertent transport of crop-destroying apple maggots was among the reasons for using tarp instead of netting over the trailer tops and choosing a route that skirts the agriculturally rich Yakima Valley, according to John Hoksbergen of Lynden, who spent two years trying to put together the long-haul operation that began almost two weeks ago.

On arrival here, each truck is weighed and then emptied into open-face cells. They are pits cut by a bulldozer, 150 feet wide, 75 to 100 feet long and 15 feet high, and would accommodate about one week's worth of waste until Whatcom County jumped the landfill's total intake by anywhere from about 60 to 80 percent.

Mostly because there's a mere 6 to 9 inches of rainfall on average here (compared to about 35½ inches at Bellingham International Airport), local health authorities allow dump owner Larry Dietrich to scrape dirt over the top of each trash cell weekly instead of daily.

The rolling landscape is raked by prodigious southeasterly winds, requiring Dietrich, 42, and his workers to make weekly walks to gather blowing trash from a fence along the dump's northeast perimeter. That keeps papers out of the adjoining fields of potatoes, corn, wheat, buckwheat, alfalfa and onions.

The dry climate also spares Dietrich from installing plastic liners to retain contaminated runoff.

In fact, there's so little rain that in two years of sticking his suction lysimeter tubes into the cells, Dietrich has yet to come up with enough moisture for state-required analyses.

At best, "You get some drips," he said.

Dietrich is moving toward installation of more sophisticated vadose zone monitors — bathtub-like catch basins sunk every 2½ acres at the lowest point of the trash to catch any runoff in sumps.

That's not the only feature that makes the landfill a far cry from the old open-burn dump his father John

## Coming up

### Monday

- **Whatcom at risk:** Who's responsible when our trash is mixed with others.
- **Cleaning up:** What Superfund status at Pasco dump could mean for Whatcom County.
- **Closing Cedarville:** What it takes to bid a dump goodbye.
- **Trash drop boxes** make their appearance.

### Tuesday

- **Satisfying the state:** Two key state agencies are unhappy and want some answers.
- **State has Whatcom County** at the end of its rope.
- **Pros and cons** of the long-haul approach and having your own dump.

### Wednesday

- **What Tri-Cities residents** and officials think about getting our garbage.

the state Department of Ecology undertakes a site evaluation. It will be acting on behalf of the state and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which on Monday placed the site on the national Superfund list of hazardous waste sites, largely as a result of 47,000 drums of chlorinated solvent dumped between 1972 and 1974 in five licensed hazardous waste cells.

The outcome of that inquiry, which could cause Dietrich to pay all or part of the cleanup costs, are not the only concern in his future.

Dietrich's current conditional use permit to operate, which prevented Franklin County commissioners from having a say over the long-haul arrangement, expires when that pact does, in June 1992.

Commissioner Harold Mathews, chairman of Franklin and Benton counties' Bi-County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, said he doubts his government would have tried to block the deal even if it could have.

"We don't mind helping out Whatcom County," he said.

"It's only three years and Whatcom County is trying to take care of itself," Mathews said in reference to the county's plan to open a new landfill. "They (Franklin Counties) don't mind temporary situations."

But that doesn't mean Dietrich's operation won't get close government scrutiny in two years, and possibly face some new and stricter limitations.

Dietrich also will be watching closely as Franklin County develops a new, comprehensive, solid-waste management plan to replace is current one, something that the state Legislature has required local governments throughout the state to do.

<b>Clearbrook</b>
31 14 .00
temperatures cover 24
5 p.m. yesterday.
<b>Bellingham</b>
17 .00
<b>Wenatchee</b>
26 17 .01
Spokane
29 10 tr.
<b>Yakima</b>
26 .09
<b>Walla Walla</b>
28 24 .00

**port**

ported at 10:07 p.m. Sat-

Bellingham International

aturday, 27 degrees. Low

65 degrees (1958). Low,

aturday. This year, 9.28

— Sunny tonight and

temperatures. Highs

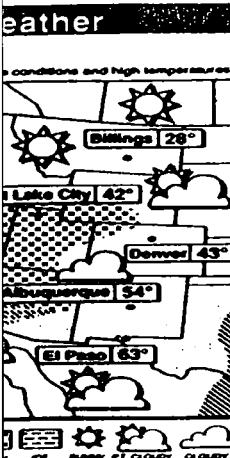
today and upper 30s to

5 to 30.

— Mostly sunny today

warmer Monday. Highs

today 30s. Lows tonight



we're getting them now,

g to work on that," he said.

have procedures."

aid that a teacher termi-

the district has the right to

hearing.

and mother Marjorie opened 35 years ago and ran until new state restrictions put an end to such practices in 1971.

There's also 14 monitors to measure the concentrations of methane gas generated beneath the surface by rotting matter. Some show elevated readings, Dietrich said, but none near the point such gas explodes.

Those measuring devices are certain to be joined by others for other purposes in the next few months as

## HOUSE PLANS!

Plan now for  
**Spring/Summer Construction**

- Professional Design/Drafting
- Reasonable Rates
- Fast, Complete



Residential/Commercial

**Rory Woolsey**  
1371 Lahti  
Bellingham

**Office: 676-4604**  
**Home: 647-5910**

**Design • Drafting • Estimating • Scheduling**